

estimated handling charges as they apply to Federal Register products. The new handling charges of \$1.46 per copy for the **Federal Register** (down from \$2.39) and \$1.59 for the CFR (down from \$2.39) were factored into the pricing analysis. The Administrative Committee believes these efforts will help minimize the need to raise prices of **Federal Register** publications in the future.

Based on all the information available, the Administrative Committee has determined that it should make price adjustments to certain publications to accurately reflect the current costs of production and distribution, and thereby avoid running a deficit. If the proposed prices are adopted, the Administrative Committee projects that the **Federal Register** program will achieve full cost recovery. In the current ACFR price regulations, the stated prices include postage. In this proposed rule, the Administrative Committee has decided to exclude postage from the stated prices, except for single issues of certain editions, because postal rate making decisions and timing are entirely beyond the control of the Committee. If the proposed rule is adopted, the prevailing postal rates will be applied to orders, based on the method of delivery requested by customers. The prices for single issues of the **Federal Register** (paper and microfiche) and the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, and single volumes of the CFR on microfiche, would continue to include postage because the cost of delivery is only a small component of the total cost.

This proposed rule would increase the subscription rates for the paper editions of the daily **Federal Register**, the Federal Register Index, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. The cost to customers for the LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected), with postage calculated at the current periodical rate, is unchanged. The subscription rates and the single copy prices of the microfiche editions of the daily **Federal Register** and CFR also will increase slightly. In addition, the Administrative Committee would establish a multi-tiered price schedule for single copies of the **Federal Register** to account for the true cost of publishing issues of varying size.

The following figures state the proposed percentage of increase for **Federal Register** publications. To be consistent with past analyses, the calculation includes the current basic postal rates applicable to each publication. Under this analysis, it will be necessary to increase the price of the

paper **Federal Register** subscription by 21 per cent, and the price of the paper CFR subscription by 12 percent. The average increase for all paper **Federal Register** subscriptions amounts to 16 per cent. The overall price change for paper and microfiche editions combined amounts to a 14 per cent increase. The increases are primarily attributable to higher labor expenses, paper costs, and a substantial decline in sales of printed publications, causing upward pressure on the average cost per subscription. Pricing for the microfiche editions of the **Federal Register** and the CFR are determined through a competitive bidding process.

While the rate increases discussed in this proposed rule will affect subscribers of the paper and microfiche editions, the success of our online publications demonstrates that the Administrative Committee is fulfilling its mission to provide the broader public with essential information on the functions, actions, and regulatory requirements of the Federal government. The Administrative Committee is constantly engaged in efforts to improve the quality of our online publications, including investments in new technology applications that will enhance e-government services to the public. In early 2003, the OFR and GPO helped the Environmental Protection Agency and other agency partners launch Regulations.gov as part of the President's eRulemaking initiative. OFR and GPO created a one-stop regulatory clearinghouse for this application to enhance public participation in the rulemaking process (see <http://www.regulations.gov>). This system is based, in large part, on OFR/GPO production systems and online **Federal Register** publications. More than 2 million users have accessed proposed and final regulations through this new resource, and the system has garnered a number of awards from various e-Government organizations. In addition, GPO, in consultation with OFR, recently completed an effort to thoroughly rewrite and reorganize its **Federal Register** and CFR web pages to improve the user experience. And GPO is also actively engaged in acquiring a new search and retrieval engine for **Federal Register** databases, including the e-CFR, which is a prototype for a currently updated, online version of the CFR (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr>). For members of the public who prefer to read the printed editions, GPO continues to provide free access to **Federal Register** publications at Federal Depository libraries located throughout the nation.

The Proposed Amendments

The increased prices for **Federal Register** publications are reflected in proposed amendments to 1 CFR part 11. The following rates would be effective 30 days after issuance of a final rule. The annual subscription rate for the daily **Federal Register** paper edition would be \$749. For a combined **Federal Register**, Federal Register Index and LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected) subscription, the price would be \$808. The price of a single copy of the daily **Federal Register** would be based on the number of pages: \$11 for an issue less than 200 pages; \$22 for an issue between 200 and 400 pages; and \$33 for an issue with more than 400 pages. The annual subscription price of the microfiche edition of the **Federal Register**, which includes the Federal Register Index and LSA, would be \$165. The price of a single copy of the daily **Federal Register** microfiche edition would be \$3. The annual price for the Federal Register Index would be \$29. The annual subscription price for the monthly LSA would be \$30. The annual subscription rate for a full set of CFR volumes would be \$1,019 for the paper edition and \$247 for the microfiche edition. The price of a single volume of the CFR microfiche edition would be \$4. The annual Subscription rate for the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents would be \$113. The price of a single copy of the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents would be \$5.

Regulatory Analyses

Executive Order 12866

The proposed rule has been drafted in accordance with Executive Order 12866, section 1(b), "Principles of Regulation." The Administrative Committee has determined that this proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action, as defined under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, does not apply to rate increases necessary to recover the costs to the Government of printing and distributing **Federal Register** publications. This proposed rule would not have a significant impact on small entities because it would not impose any substantive requirements, and any increased costs could be avoided by accessing **Federal Register** publications on the Internet via the free GPO Access service. In addition, Federal depository libraries located throughout the nation provide free access to the bound paper editions or microfiche editions of **Federal Register** publications, as well as